



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 July 2008

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The Associated Press reports that authorities in Ohio have evacuated areas around the post offices of two Ohio communities because of the discovery of what appear to be unexploded pipe bombs. (See item [17](#))
- According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Georgia's largest health insurer sent an estimated 202,000 benefits letters containing personal and health information to the wrong addresses last week, in a privacy breach that raised concerns about potential identity theft. (See item [27](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#); [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *July 29, Reuters* – (International) **Shell warns on Nigeria oil exports after attacks.** Royal Dutch Shell warned on Tuesday it may not be able to meet all of its oil export obligations from Nigeria for the next few months after militants blew up parts of a key pipeline in the Niger Delta. The Anglo-Dutch giant declared force majeure on its Bonny Light crude oil exports for July, August, and September, freeing itself from contractual obligations, after Monday's attack by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) on the Nembe Creek trunk pipeline, which industry sources say carries about 130,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude to the Bonny export terminal. "(We) are working to repair the line and restore production," a spokeswoman for Shell in Nigeria

said. The oil from the facility is particularly popular in the U.S. and Europe because it is easily refined into gasoline, diesel, and other crude products. The unrest in the delta has cut Nigeria's output by around a fifth and helped push global energy prices to record highs. The strike came as traders expected Nigeria's crude exports to rise to 2.02 million bpd in September, following pipeline repairs. Traders said on Monday the preliminary September programs showed an increase from estimated exports of 1.94 million bpd in August but warned that further attacks could disrupt supplies.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSL923709520080729?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

2. *July 28, Reuters* – (California) **Chevron: No output impact from SF Bay refinery spill.** Chevron Corp.'s San Francisco Bay-area refinery in Richmond, California, said there was no production impact from a sulfuric acid spill on Monday. Local and state pollution regulators said less than 100 gallons were released from a pipe into a pipeway, which contained the spill. No injuries were reported due to the spill, said a Chevron spokesman. The name of the unit being supplied by the pipe was not immediately available, he said. The leak had been stopped.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2818875720080728>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

3. *July 28, KFDM 6 Beaumont* – (Texas) **Fire extinguished at chemical plant.** Workers at Calabrian Chemical Corporation in Port Neches, Texas, quickly put out a fire Monday morning that briefly led to the closure of a road near the plant. Law enforcement officers blocked the intersection at Highway 366 and Hogaboom Road while emergency workers responded. No one was hurt.

Source:

[http://www.kfdm.com/news/company\\_27130\\_article.html/extinguished\\_fire.html](http://www.kfdm.com/news/company_27130_article.html/extinguished_fire.html)

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

4. *July 29, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **Radiation higher, but no danger to public.** On Monday, Vermont's chief of radiological health was in Windham County taking air, water, and milk samples to track radiation levels coming out of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon. Last Friday, the Vermont Department of Health issued its 2007 radiation report, noting a 30 percent increase – to 18 millirems – in levels at the fenceline of the plant since the 2006 report. The increase was attributed to a year's worth of operation at 650 megawatts, a 20 percent power "uprate" over the previous level of 520 megawatts. In addition to the boost, the increase in radiation levels was attributed to a corrosion control method that uses noble metals to coat the insides of pipes in the plant. The state's chief of radiological health said the measurements taken by the state indicate no members of the public are at increased risk due to radiation

emissions from Yankee. “Dose rates have gone up in some areas of the plant,” said a spokesman for Vermont Yankee. “However that is countered by Vermont Yankee’s ongoing focus on keeping exposures as low as reasonably achievable. The overall dose to workers remains within the NRC acceptable limits.” The limit for radiation workers is 5,000 millirem, about 270 times the 18 millirem level reported by the department of health.

Source: [http://www.reformer.com/ci\\_10029781](http://www.reformer.com/ci_10029781)

5. *July 28, Associated Press* – (Michigan; Northeast) **NRC OKs Entergy spinning off five nuclear plants.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has given the green light for Entergy Corp. to spin off Vermont Yankee and four other nuclear plants – in Massachusetts, New York, and Michigan – to a newly created company, officials said Monday. The agency rejected critics’ contentions that the new firm, called Enexus Energy Corp., will be saddled with too much debt to ensure its ability to pay for any needed fixes at the plants or for their eventual decommissioning. It found that a “support agreement” in which Entergy will put up \$700 million toward operation and maintenance costs for the plants, plus a \$1 billion line of credit backed by New Orleans-based Entergy, would be sufficient to allay those concerns. In addition to Vermont Yankee, the Pilgrim plant in Massachusetts, the Indian Point and Fitzpatrick plants in New York State, and the Palisades plant in Michigan are being included in the transaction. The NRC said it looked at the projected finances of the five nuclear stations for the next five years and found that in all cases but one – Vermont Yankee’s – the plants’ revenues would exceed their expenses. The spinoff still requires the approval of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as state regulators in Vermont and New York.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2008/07/28/nrc\\_oks\\_entergy\\_spinning\\_off\\_five\\_nuclear\\_plants/?p1=Well\\_MostPop\\_Emailed4](http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2008/07/28/nrc_oks_entergy_spinning_off_five_nuclear_plants/?p1=Well_MostPop_Emailed4)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

6. *July 29, Military Times* – (National) **Lighter MRAPs in the works.** Some of the Pentagon’s final batch of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles could be several tons lighter and one or two feet shorter in length – an effort to reduce deadly rollovers and increase mobility, a senior Pentagon official said. “We will study engineering change proposals over the next four to six weeks, looking to improve mobility requirements and develop a better turn radius for the MRAPs,” said the official. The U.S. defense secretary responded favorably, the official said, when presented with the plan July 9. The plan is to increase stability while preserving the vehicles’ survivability – their V-shaped hull, ground clearance, and armor. Today’s fully loaded MRAPs are about 12 to 14 feet long and weigh from 15 to 22 tons, depending on armor options. The U.S. Defense Department plans to buy roughly 1,600 MRAPs by the end of the year, completing the planned purchase of up to 15,000 MRAPs, a Pentagon spokeswoman said. These will include standard MRAPs, plussed-up MRAPs with extra armor, and the new shorter, lighter MRAP. Within the past month, field commanders in

Iraq and Afghanistan have asked for tougher, more mobile MRAPs. “They want more mobility and to accomplish that, it needs to be a little smaller. We will build it smaller,” said the senior Pentagon official. The massive vehicles’ tendency to roll over was described in a June 13 Marine Corps MRAP safety report. Designing the changes will be relatively cheap and quick because the vehicles were designed with 3-D software. Army officials, who have been testing MRAPs at Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona, over the last few months to find and correct vehicle vulnerabilities, say smaller, lighter MRAPs would likely decrease risks to soldiers.

Source: [http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2008/07/army\\_mrap\\_072808w/](http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2008/07/army_mrap_072808w/)

7. *July 29, Kyodo News Agency* – (National) **Sources: Misplaced oil likely caused GW fire.** The fire aboard the aircraft carrier George Washington in May broke out after oil caught fire near a boiler on the starboard side, and it is suspected the oil was placed there against regulations, sources in the Japanese and U.S. governments told Kyodo News on Monday. According to the sources, the Navy has learned that 35 gallons of oil, believed to be lubrication oil, were placed near an auxiliary boiler located on the right side and stern of the ship. The Navy has yet to finally determine the cause of the fire, but the sources said it has leaned toward a view that a spark occurred from a short circuit or static electricity and the spark ended up causing the fire on the oil nearby. The Navy initially planned to deploy the George Washington to Yokosuka in August. But it is believed that the fire, which broke out in the Pacific Ocean off South America, and subsequent repairs on the carrier have caused a delay until September at the earliest. The timing of deployment of the 102,000-ton carrier is a high-profile topic in Japan as the George Washington will be the first nuclear-powered carrier to use a Japanese city as a home port.

Source: [http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2008/07/kyo\\_gwfire\\_072808/](http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2008/07/kyo_gwfire_072808/)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

8. *July 29, Bradenton Herald* – (Florida) **Local men charged in \$83M bank fraud.** Three Sarasota men and one from Tampa are facing numerous federal charges that they bilked banks out of almost \$83 million on several land sales in Manatee and Sarasota counties. They are accused of defrauding seven banks through a complex scheme involving seven real-estate transactions, four of them in Manatee, from 2004 to 2006. The FBI began investigating the men’s dealings as part of Operation Malicious Mortgage, a fraud crackdown that so far has netted more than 400 arrests nationwide.  
Source: <http://www.bradenton.com/local/story/768238.html>
9. *July 28, KGO 7 San Francisco* – (National) **Macy’s security breach halts card service.** Macy’s had to notify 4,100 customers across the country who hold a Macy’s Visa credit card – not the regular charge card. Macy’s says there was a massive security breach at a Visa processing center in England. Thieves got hold of Visa account numbers and started making unauthorized charges, mainly at gas stations. Macy’s is freezing the accounts of all 4,100 holders of the Macy’s Visa card, but only those who had any transactions processed in England. Macy’s advises customers to check for any

unauthorized charges on their Macy's Visa. The company says, so far, it appears only account numbers were stolen, not personal information.

Source: [http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/7\\_on\\_your\\_side&id=6292677](http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/7_on_your_side&id=6292677)

10. *July 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Four indicted in \$20 million mortgage scheme.**

Two real estate agents and a married couple who ran nursing homes are facing federal charges alleging they defrauded several banks of \$20 million dollars in a complicated mortgage scheme. The four face 126 counts of conspiracy, bank fraud, wire fraud, money laundering and other crimes. The alleged scheme ran between 2002 and 2007 and involved recruiting people to pose as buyers for almost 20 properties, many of them nursing homes in the suburbs east of San Francisco, according to the indictment. The real estate agents are accused of obtaining loans for the “straw buyers” using false income and employment information. Federal prosecutors allege two of the suspects recruited many of the buyers and funneled loan money into their own bank accounts.

Source: [http://www.examiner.com/a-1509812~Four\\_indicted\\_in\\_20\\_million\\_mortgage\\_scheme.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-1509812~Four_indicted_in_20_million_mortgage_scheme.html)

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## **Transportation Sector**

11. *July 29, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Qantas says no danger after plane aborts flight.**

Passengers aboard a Qantas jet that was forced to abort a domestic flight after a landing gear door failed to retract were never in any danger, the airline said Tuesday. A Boeing 737-800 of the Australian airline was forced back to Adelaide airport shortly after take-off late Monday, in an air safety scare that came just three days after a Qantas Boeing 747-400 en route to Melbourne from Hong Kong was forced to make an emergency landing in Manila after a large hole was ripped in its fuselage.

Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hOqcbmbgj9Yo7Q8ZGV7iOJp6egdw>

12. *July 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Report says 1 in 4 US bridges needs**

**upgrading.** At least \$140 billion is needed to make major repairs or upgrades to one of every four U.S. bridges, transportation officials from states across the country said in a report released Monday. State officials said bridge repairs are just one element of a pressing need for more federal funding to improve the country's deteriorating transportation infrastructure. The report cited Federal Highway Administration statistics that 152,000 out of the nation's 600,000 bridges are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. The \$140 billion price tag was derived by multiplying the total number of square meters of the problem bridges by the average cost per square meter — in 2006 dollars — to do the work. Typically built to last 50 years, the average U.S. bridge is 43 years old and approaching replacement age, according to the report. The report's suggestions include increasing gasoline taxes and new taxes on alternative fuels, turning free highways into toll roads and increasing private investment in public works.

Source:

[http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jpwGdL\\_03IQHCgyKSOukbAZWQZagD9273ND00](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jpwGdL_03IQHCgyKSOukbAZWQZagD9273ND00)

13. *July 28, Associated Press* – (National) **As Americans drive less, highway funds drop.** Soaring fuel prices and other economic strains have led Americans to cut back sharply on driving, which is changing where they go and how they get there and jeopardizing the federal fund for highway construction and repairs. Americans drove 9.6 billion fewer miles in May 2008 than in May 2007, according to federal data released Monday. The 3.7 percent decline was the third-largest monthly drop in the 66 years the Department of Transportation has been collecting the data. A spokesman for the Nevada Department of Transportation said driving is down throughout the state, especially at the borders where tourists usually stream to destinations like Las Vegas. Yet the biggest declines are occurring in parts of the country where people do not have easy alternatives to driving, such as the central states, said a spokesman for the Federal Highway Administration. As a result of the drop, the federal highway trust fund — which relies on per-gallon taxes that do not rise with the price of fuel — faces a multibillion dollar shortfall next year, down from a surplus of more than \$10 billion just three years ago. No one expects traffic volume to bounce back anytime soon.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25891664/>
14. *July 28, Live Science* – (National) **How deadly are the roads you drive on?** Rural highways are some of the deadliest in the country, studies have shown, so researchers have created a new interactive map that drivers can use to see exactly how safe — or fatal — the roads are where they live. Driving is one of the most dangerous activities people engage in; the lifetime risk of dying in a motor vehicle accident for U.S residents is 1-in-100. About 57 percent of highway deaths happen on rural roads, according to the Federal Highway Administration. To help educate drivers on the hazards they might face on the road, researchers at the University of Minnesota's Center for Excellence in Rural Safety have mapped out every fatality in the nation at [www.saferoadmaps.org](http://www.saferoadmaps.org). The researchers plan to unveil the new Web site Monday at an annual conference on rural safety in Santa Rosa, California.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25887601/>
15. *July 28, Computerworld* – (National) **Airlines warn customers of infected ticket invoices.** Several airlines, including Delta Air Lines Inc. and Northwest Airlines Corp., have warned customers that bogus e-mails posing as ticket invoices contain malware and urged them to immediately delete the messages. A researcher at McAfee Inc. confirmed the campaign in a post to the company's blog. The e-mails, which purport to be from an airline, thank the recipient for using a new "Buy flight ticket Online" service on the airline's site, provide a log-in username and password, and say the person's credit card has been charged an amount usually in the \$400 range. An attachment claims to be the invoice for the ticket and credit card charge. However, the .zip file format attachment is a Trojan horse that steals information, including keystrokes, from the infected Windows PC and transmits that data to a server hosted in Russia, according to a McAfee threat researcher. McAfee has pegged the malware as "Spy-Agent.bw," but other security firms have given it different names. For example, Symantec Corp. has labeled the same Trojan horse as "Infostealer.Monstres." Infostealer.Monstres first made a name for itself almost a year ago, when it was used to rip off more than 1.6 million customer records from Monster Worldwide Inc., the company that operates the popular



Monster.com recruiting Web site.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9110883&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9110883&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

16. *July 27, Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **I-35E reopened after part of bridge falls.** A section, about 6 feet by 9 feet and 1 inch thick, fell from the bottom of St. Paul's Maryland Avenue overpass onto Interstate 35E Saturday, covering the northbound lanes of I-35E with debris, shutting down the busy freeway for several hours and delaying traffic. The freeway was open Sunday. No one was hurt, said a spokesman for the Minnesota Department of Transportation. A bridge assessment team was sent to the site to investigate and determine if the bridge was safe. This week, inspectors will conduct a broader examination.

Source:

[http://www.startribune.com/local/25944839.html?location\\_refer=Homepage:highlightModules:1](http://www.startribune.com/local/25944839.html?location_refer=Homepage:highlightModules:1)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

17. *July 29, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Possible pipe bombs found at 2 Ohio post offices.** Authorities in Ohio say they have evacuated areas around the post offices of two small communities because of the discovery of what appear to be unexploded pipe bombs. An Athens County sheriff's dispatcher says authorities have called in a bomb squad from Columbus to help at the scenes in the neighboring southeast Ohio towns of Guysville and Stewart. Fire officials and the Red Cross set up evacuation sites Tuesday morning in Guysville and Stewart. Authorities have not commented on whether there might be any link to explosives found last week at three sites in nearby Nelsonville, including one device that blew a window out of a camera shop. Three young men have been charged in those incidents.

Source:

[http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jZzg37B2\\_36vcla8j\\_WrKge8K7VwD927ICK00](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jZzg37B2_36vcla8j_WrKge8K7VwD927ICK00)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

18. *July 29, United Press International* – (National) **FDA: Don't eat American lobster tomalley.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warns consumers not to eat tomalley in American lobster (Maine Lobster), no matter where the lobster was harvested. FDA officials said tomalley – the green substance found in a lobster's body that functions as the animal's liver and pancreas – might be contaminated with dangerous levels of the toxins that cause paralytic shellfish poisoning, or PSP. The federal agency said American lobsters are harvested from the Atlantic Ocean from Northeastern Canada to South Carolina. The FDA said its advisory applies only to tomalley, since cooking does not eliminate PSP toxins.

Source:

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2008/07/29/FDA\\_Dont\\_eat\\_American\\_lobster\\_tom\\_alley/UPI-34551217339719/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2008/07/29/FDA_Dont_eat_American_lobster_tom_alley/UPI-34551217339719/)

19. *July 29, Washington Post* – (Maryland; Virginia) **Chesapeake’s crab numbers sink.** The Chesapeake Bay’s population of blue crabs remains in a historic slump, with the number of mature crabs declining by 23 million last year, according to new research. The Blue Crab Advisory Report, produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, showed that the number of adult crabs fell to about 120 million this past winter from about 143 million the winter before. Both numbers are below the target scientists said the blue crab population needs to reach: 200 million. The data were calculated from the “winter dredge survey,” in which scientists use ship-drawn shovels to dig crabs out of their cold-weather burrows in the bay. These figures echo the conclusions of officials from Virginia and Maryland, who resolved this year to restrict the blue crab harvest, trying to rebuild the animal’s numbers in the Chesapeake.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/28/AR2008072802769.html>

20. *July 28, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Farm experts: Floods caused minimal erosion in Wisconsin.** The torrential rain and flooding that hit southern Wisconsin this summer, destroying tens of millions of dollars worth of farm crops, had a least one silver lining — soil erosion was not a major problem, farm experts say. “We found the fields that had conservation tillage and residue management no-till surprisingly have very little damage,” said a farm conservationist for the U.S. Agriculture Department’s Natural Resource Conservation Service in Madison. “What happened is the crop that was planted is a complete loss.” The number of farmland acres harmed by erosion and a dollar amount of damage was not available from either the USDA’s Wisconsin offices nor from the state Department of Agriculture. Some states, like Indiana, suffered serious losses. Wisconsin has more diversified farming with livestock, requiring more hay fields than some other Midwest states, thus cutting down the potential for erosion. The Department’s Natural Resource Conservation Service estimated that flooding caused about \$2.8 million worth of damage to conservation structures in the state, such as dams, levees, ditches, and waterways.

Source:

[http://www.startribune.com/local/25967879.html?location\\_refer=Local%20%20Me%20tro](http://www.startribune.com/local/25967879.html?location_refer=Local%20%20Me%20tro)

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## **Water Sector**

21. *July 29, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona; California; Nevada) **Feds pushing crackdown on wells tapping into Colorado River water.** The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which oversees the Colorado River in Arizona, Nevada, and California, has proposed new rules that target well owners, who drain as much as five billion gallons of water a year from the Colorado. Most of the well owners are private citizens who have drilled their wells too close to the river. Instead of pumping groundwater, to which landowners have a



right, they are drawing water from the river's subsurface flow. Well owners must get approval to siphon water from the river's surface or subsurface. To comply with the new procedures, well owners can seek an individual water right, join an existing water district, or become a customer of a city or other provider with rights to Colorado River water. They could continue to pump water from the well, but only within the limits of the water right or provider. The bureau is still trying to figure out how many wells have tapped the river or the exact amount of water pumped. Hydrologists estimate the annual losses at 9,000 to 15,000 acre-feet. The federal crackdown comes at a time when the bureau and the seven Colorado River states are trying to stretch water supplies to meet growing demand and avert drought-related shortages.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2008/07/29/20080729river-illegal0729.html>

22. *July 29, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Sewage spills are a summer bummer for beachgoers.** Long Beach, California, is experiencing a series of sewage spills that have kept popular shoreline spots off limits. Long Beach has seen 31 sewage spills since January, four of them so severe that officials had to close the beaches. That is about ten fewer spills than this time last year, but three more beach closures. Officials say there have been more beach closures this year because of where the sewage spilled. On Saturday, a 12,000-gallon sewage spill near Spinnaker Bay closed Mother's Beach, Marine Stadium, Colorado Lagoon, and Alamitos Bay. Some of the water quality issues are homegrown. Cleaning crews responsible for maintaining the city's 760 miles of sewer lines traced Saturday's spill to an eight-inch pipe below a gated community that was clogged with cooking grease. A 300-gallon spill July 13 that closed several beaches was caused by vandals stuffing toilet paper down public toilets near Mother's Beach, city officials said. Other water problems flow downstream from Los Angeles. Unlike other beach cities, Long Beach is inundated with polluted water from the San Gabriel and Los Angeles rivers, say environmental experts.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-longbeach29-2008jul29,0,7851697.story>

23. *July 28, Litchfield Independent Review* – (Minnesota) **County lakes, rivers on polluted list.** The number of lakes and rivers in Meeker County, Minnesota, that are polluted has increased in the past two years. At least 17 lakes and rivers in the county are on a statewide list of impaired waters that do not meet water-quality standards because they contain pollutants above the acceptable levels for public use. Approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the 2008 list includes 1,475 impairments on 336 rivers and 510 lakes. There are 150 new listings for rivers and 147 new listings for lakes in 2008. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency updates the impaired waters list every two years, as required by the federal Clean Water Act. New to the list this year from Meeker County are Lake Betsy, Clear Lake, Long Lake, and Lake Hope. All four lakes were added to the list because of excess nutrients in the water, mainly phosphorus. The nutrients, which may come from wastewater or field runoff, can make lakes cloudy and cause nuisance algae growth. In addition to excess nutrients, other pollutants can impair local waters. An abnormal amount of mercury in fish tissue has been reported in several

Meeker County creeks that empty into the North Fork of the Crow River. Mercury also was found in some eastern Meeker County lakes.

Source: <http://www.independentreview.net/news/around-meeker-county/county-lakes-rivers-polluted-list-3387>

24. *July 28, Lansdale Reporter* – (Pennsylvania) **Townships fight new EPA waterway rules.** Franconia Township, Pennsylvania, has signed on with Lower Salford in hiring a lawyer to do a combined legal appeal of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules for removing pollution from waterways. Municipalities nationwide have protested the requirements, which they say will cost residents and still may not meet the goals. “The standards are not, in my opinion, realistic,” Franconia’s engineer said at a Franconia Township supervisors work session, preceding the board’s regular meeting. “They’re trying to get limits that are not workable.” In Franconia and Lower Salford’s case, the standards are for Indian Creek, but the rules will eventually affect many other waterways as the EPA tries to meet court-ordered water quality anti-pollution measures nationwide. The EPA is setting Total Maximum Daily Load limits for the amount of contamination allowed to enter waterways.

Source:

[http://www.thereporteronline.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19874469&BRD=2275&PAG=461&dept\\_id=466404&rft=6](http://www.thereporteronline.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19874469&BRD=2275&PAG=461&dept_id=466404&rft=6)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

25. *July 29, ScienceDaily* – (National) **Sharp rise in skin infections in U.S., MRSA suspected.** A national analysis of physician office and emergency department records shows that the types of skin infections caused by community-acquired MRSA doubled in the eight-year study period, with the highest rates seen among children and in urban emergency rooms. The study, conducted at the University of California, San Francisco, examined annual data from the National Center for Health Statistics of patient visits for skin and soft-tissue infections from 1997 to 2005. The results appear in the July 28, 2008 issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine. During that time period, office and emergency room visits for all skin infections rose from 8.6 million nationwide to 14.2 million, according to the lead author on the paper and a fellow in the divisions of general pediatrics and of pediatric infectious diseases at UCSF. The vast majority of that increase was attributable to visits for abscesses or cellulitis, which the study’s author called the hallmark signs of infections from the variety of staph bacteria known as MRSA, or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. Those infections rose from 4.6 million to 9.6 million during the study period.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080728193239.htm>

26. *July 29, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. surgical errors cost \$1.5 billion a year: report.** Preventable medical errors during or after surgery cause 10 percent of surgery-related deaths and may cost employers nearly \$1.5 billion a year, according to a U.S. government report released on Monday. Errors ranged from bedsores and reopened wounds to infections and blood clots, according to the study from the Agency for

Healthcare Research and Quality. The agency looked at the records of more than 161,000 patients aged 18 to 64 covered by employer-based health plans who had surgery in 2001 and 2002. The records indicated that one of every 10 patients who died within 90 days of surgery died because of a preventable error and one-third of the deaths occurred after the patient was discharged.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN2848071220080729>

27. *July 29, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Private medical data exposed.**

Georgia's largest health insurer sent an estimated 202,000 benefits letters containing personal and health information to the wrong addresses last week, in a privacy breach that also raised concerns about potential identity theft. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia said Monday that the erroneous mailings were primarily Explanation of Benefits (EOB) letters, which include the patient's name and ID number, the name of the medical provider delivering the service, and the amounts charged and owed. "A small percentage" of letters also contained the patient's Social Security numbers, said a Blue Cross spokeswoman. The EOB forms were mailed to the addresses of other Blue Cross policyholders. The security breach may be a violation of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), which protects patients' medical information. The privacy rules were fully implemented in 2003, but few fines have been assessed under the law, experts said.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/hawks/content/news/stories/2008/07/29/bluecross.html>

28. *July 28, KLAS 8 Las Vegas* – (Nevada) **West Nile virus found in Las Vegas Valley.**

The West Nile Virus has been detected in a cluster of mosquitoes in east Las Vegas, according to the Southern Nevada Health District. In 2007, there were three human cases of the virus reported in Clark County. There were a total of 12 cases statewide. So far, the virus has been found only in mosquitoes. There have been no human cases thus far in Las Vegas.

Source: <http://www.lasvegasnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=8747534&nav=168XDWn7>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

29. *July 29, Associated Press* – (International) **Ultrationalists gathering for pro-Karadzic rally.**

Thousands of riot police deployed in Belgrade as busloads of ultrationalists poured into the capital Tuesday for a large anti-government rally. Serbia's president warned the right-wing extremists to remain peaceful as they protest the arrest of war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic. The U.S. Embassy predicted up to 100,000 protesters could show up and advised Americans to avoid downtown Belgrade. In February, the last time Serbian ultrationalists organized a mass rally against Western countries, the U.S. Embassy was partly burned and protesters went on a looting spree, smashing shops and McDonald's restaurants in Belgrade.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/07/29/europe/EU-Serbia-Karadzic.php>

30. *July 28, BetaNews* – (California) **Username and passwords to San Francisco**

**network exposed in court docs.** San Francisco again has control of its own FiberWAN

network, but as it compiles evidence to keep the network administrator who locked up the network in jail, the city could have opened itself up to a slew of new security problems. The San Francisco District Attorney's office entered up to 150 usernames and passwords into Exhibit A of the ongoing legal case against Childs. Each account is said to be sensitive and private, and the city has gone through a lot of work to get the accounts back, only to enter them into the public domain through the courtroom filings. The passwords entered into Exhibit A happen to be just one set of at least two sets of passwords necessary to access the network, but security experts again were left shaking their heads. Access into the city's VPN network would still be required to make use of the exposed login information. All of the usernames are linked to the mayor's office and district attorney's office, multiple city agencies and departments, and the city's police department. Security experts already pointed out the city should change all of the passwords, especially since a number of them are identical to their usernames or would otherwise be easy to guess.

Source:

[http://www.betanews.com/article/Usernames\\_and\\_passwords\\_to\\_San\\_Francisco\\_network\\_exposed\\_in\\_court\\_docs/1217272382](http://www.betanews.com/article/Usernames_and_passwords_to_San_Francisco_network_exposed_in_court_docs/1217272382)

31. *July 28, WBIR 10 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **ORNL Operational Emergency ends.** The Holifield Radioactive Ion Beam Facility (HRIBF, Building 6000) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee was evacuated Monday morning after a worrisome radiological reading. The Operational Emergency was declared at 9:33 a.m. and ended at 5:25 p.m. According to a spokesman with the U.S. Department of Energy, it was declared after a routine reading indicated double the appropriate amount of Cesium 138 inside the building. Recovery operations will continue Tuesday at the HRIBF. Offices and laboratories will re-open normally, but the accelerator will not be restarted until an investigation is complete.

Source: <http://www.wbir.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=61364&catid=2>

32. *July 28, Hattiesburg American* – (Mississippi) **Morning bomb threat clears Jones courthouse, DHS buildings.** An unknown caller's bomb threat Monday led Jones County officials to evacuate employees at the Jones County Courthouse and the Department of Human Services (DHS) buildings in Laurel, Mississippi. Jones County Sheriff's Department officials said Monday that an unidentified caller called the courthouse and the DHS buildings around 11 a.m., threatening to blow up the buildings. A Jones County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman said both buildings were evacuated. The buildings were re-opened around noon Monday.

Source:

<http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080728/NEWS01/80728039>

33. *July 28, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Man arrested after standoff with police at Wisconsin city hall.** In Wisconsin, a man who holed up in a Pewaukee City Hall restroom claiming to have an explosive device has been taken into custody. The Pewaukee police captain said police negotiated with the man through the bathroom door and eventually arrested him. They do not know yet whether the device the man was

wearing was actually a bomb. The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office bomb squad is handling the device. Waukesha County sheriff's tactical officers were among those responding to city hall, which was evacuated.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,392481,00.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

34. *July 29, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Emergency groups plan ahead for crisis scenarios.** The Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency (KEMA), using state and federal government guidelines, already has a plan for a mass crisis in the area. A couple of times a year, KEMA tests that plan; large-scale drills might include a tornado, earthquake, bioterrorism attack, or roof collapsing on a Wal-Mart or a concert venue. But KEMA's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), which meets once a month, plans for community crises on all scales. The LEPC includes representatives from all area hospitals, area police and fire departments, Rural/Metro, the Rescue Squad, Red Cross, University of Tennessee, FBI, and some private companies, including hazardous-waste cleanup professionals and chemical-producing firms.

Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/jul/29/emergency-groups-plan-ahead-for-crisis-scenarios/>

35. *July 28, Olympian* – (Washington) **Sea-Tac plans full-scale plane crash drill.** A full-scale emergency drill simulating a plane crash is planned for 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The exercise will test airfield disaster preparedness and response as required by the Federal Aviation Administration every three years, according to a news release from the Port of Seattle. It will be the first full-scale exercise to occur on a Sea-Tac runway in at least 25 years and will not affect any air travel. Both of Sea-Tac's runways will be open as normal and the exercise will not affect any customer activity within the terminal, the release states. More than 100 volunteers will participate as 'victims' next to a mock-up aircraft fuselage placed in the middle of the third runway along with wrecked cars representing various debris designed to drill extrication procedures. Dozens of the King County area mutual aid police and fire agencies will participate in the exercise with an estimated 50 to 75 pieces of equipment from fire engines to aid cars and up to 175 firefighters. Additional police officers from the area also are expected to participate alongside first responders from the Port of Seattle Fire and Police Departments, Sea-Tac Airport Security, Airport Operations, Public Information, and the Port Environmental team.

Source: <http://www.theolympian.com/377/story/522371.html>

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## **Information Technology**

36. *July 29, IDG News Service* – (National) **Oracle issues warning over dangerous WebLogic flaw.** Oracle Corp. is scrambling to create an emergency patch for a severe

vulnerability in the company's WebLogic server, as exploit code is circulating on the Web. The company issued a rare security alert today, the first off-schedule warning since it introduced a regularly scheduled patch release cycle more than three years ago. The problem lies in the Apache plug-in for the Oracle WebLogic Server and Express products (formerly known as BEA WebLogic), both application servers. The vulnerability can be exploited over a network without a need for a username or password, Oracle wrote in an advisory. The flaw can result in "compromising the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the targeted system." The problem scores a 10.0, the most serious rating, on the CVSS (Common Vulnerability Scoring System) scale, a framework used to evaluate the risks of a particular flaw. Oracle advised administrators to implement a work-around while it is working to create a patch.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9110939&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9110939&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

37. *July 29, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **W.Va. still struggling with cell phone gaps.** Dropped calls and bad connections are all too familiar to West Virginia cell phone users, but the state says things are improving. The State Homeland Security Director told lawmakers Monday that his agency has worked with businesses and local governments to install 11 cell towers throughout the state in the last year. Persistent problems with cell coverage remain, though. The head of the state Public Service Commission's consumer advocate division, said those problems stem more from coverage gaps as opposed to so-called dead zones. His office estimates it costs as much as \$500,000 to build a cell phone tower in West Virginia.

Source: <http://www.herald-dispatch.com/homepage/x1356143372/W-Va-still-struggling-with-cell-phone-gaps>

38. *July 29, Times Herald-Record* – (National) **Verizon strike looms; contract talks go on.** Verizon officials and union workers were still in contract negotiations Monday as a strike deadline approached. Union workers have voted to strike if an agreement is not reached by the expiration of the current contract at midnight Saturday. One of the major disputes is what union officials say is the outsourcing of many jobs to non-union subcontractors. A spokesman for Local 1101 of the Communications Workers of America, the union that represents many of the workers, cited what he said were \$5.5 billion in Verizon profits and \$82 million paid to its top five executives in 2007 as evidence the company can afford what workers are asking for. A Verizon spokesman



declined to comment on the negotiations, but said a strike would not affect customer service. The timing of a strike could be bad for Verizon, which just began rolling out its new fiber-optic FiOS service in the region, meant to offer an alternative to cable TV and to ameliorate the loss of land-line customers. The strike could involve as many as 65,000 workers from New England to Virginia. Verizon employs about 600 people in the region.

Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080729/BIZ/807290314/-1/NEWS>

39. *July 29, Associated Press* – (National) **MSU, local company work on satellite development.** Mississippi State University and InfiniSat, a technology business in Starkville, are working together to develop small, low-cost satellites for the U.S. market. The satellites would gather information for wide range of projects, from weather prediction to disaster monitoring and communication. MSU and InfiniSat are working with federal research agencies to develop affordable, effective technologies that can be put into use quickly. The director of the Northern Gulf Institute, an MSU-based cooperative program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says the goal is to build “a full spaceflight mission operations and training center for Mississippi” with the power to track and communicate with satellites overhead. Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/306/story/711240.html>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

40. *July 29, Associated Press* – (International) **Beijing cites numerous Olympic threats.** Just over a week before the Beijing Olympics, a militant Islamic group’s claims of responsibility for bombings in China have fueled unease about security. Stirring the latest concerns were videotaped threats purporting to be from an Islamic militant group. They surfaced last week in the name of the Turkistan Islamic Party — a group Chinese and Western terrorism experts say is an offshoot of a secessionist group from China’s Central Asian frontier with ties to al-Qaida. In it, hooded men stood in camouflage fatigues with Kalashnikovs and claimed responsibility for explosions in four cities in Western China in recent months, including two bus bombings last week in Kunming city that authorities said killed two people and injured 14. One militant, identified by the Washington-based monitoring group IntelCenter as a commander, warned athletes and spectators “particularly the Muslims” to stay away. “Our aim is to target the most critical points related to the Olympics. We will try to attack Chinese central cities severely using the tactics that have never been employed,” he said. Source: [http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iHs5lKG5cE6C3ArWZzFZkrwns\\_kAD9279RLO1](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iHs5lKG5cE6C3ArWZzFZkrwns_kAD9279RLO1)
41. *July 29, Idaho Statesman* – (Idaho) **Source of mercury near West Boise home still a mystery.** Investigators from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Monday tried unsuccessfully to find the source of a mercury spill at a home in Boise, Idaho, five days after it was discovered. They also want to know how long the mercury has been

there and if anyone else has been exposed, according to a Boise Police spokeswoman. In the meantime, the EPA clean-up team has removed four dump trucks full of contaminated soil from the areas around two four-plexes and some areas behind and in between two homes in the area. So far, 120 cubic yards of soil has been hauled away. The apartments have been evacuated. According to a Boise press release, there is about four times more contaminated soil than expected. Soil removed includes contaminated material from in front of the residence. The Mercury found in the driveway and sidewalks has been contained, vacuumed and removed. Mercury was visible with the naked eye on some hard surfaces, like tables, said an on-scene coordinator and environmental protection specialist for the EPA. More mercury was detected inside the home by electronic readings. “We’re finding more and more contamination as we get into this,” said the official, “but that was to be expected. I think we have a handle on it right now. It’s just finding who brought it in, how long it’s been here, and who may still have it and not be aware of the dangers that we’re concerned about.” In Idaho and the Northwest, mercury is commonly used in mining, particularly mining for gold, said the official. If neighbors or others have questions about the symptoms of mercury poisoning, they are urged to call their doctor or the Central District Health Office in Boise.

Source: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/102/story/454620.html>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

42. *July 29, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Engineers make progress with Lake Okeechobee wall construction.** With repair work lingering through another hurricane season, construction crews have finished the first section of wall intended to help prevent breaches of Lake Okeechobee’s aging dike. Installation of the initial 3,500-foot section at Port Mayaca was completed July 11. Strength testing is expected to last until mid-August, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Work is now set to begin on the next 3.5-mile section of wall near Sand Cut. An initial 500-foot test panel of the wall must first clear inspections. Initial construction targets the southeastern side of the Herbert Hoover Dike, considered the most vulnerable part of the 140-mile-long structure. Completing the project could take until 2030 and cost more than \$856 million, according to the Corps.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-flakeo0729pnjul29,0,7714078.story>

43. *July 29, Hawk Eye* – (Iowa) **Corps general tours levees.** A 500-year levee is better than the 50-year versions that protected Henderson County, Iowa, until the June 17 breach. But for now, a temporary levee will have to suffice. More than a month since the breach,

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the time is nearing to go in and make those repairs. “We’re getting to the time where it makes sense to put the temporary repair in,” said the Henderson County Corps project engineer. “The hope is in the next seven to 10 days, there will be a contractor working and a contractor out here fitting the initial repair.” He said once the contractor is hired, work will begin to put in an initial levee – which will be the base for the permanent repairs – to prevent water from flowing back into low areas of the county. Once the temporary levee is built, the contractor will set to work designing the permanent levee along the current alignment.

Source: <http://www.thehawkeye.com/Story/flood-henderson-072908>

44. *July 28, Moberly Monitor-Index* – (Missouri) **Heavy rains put residents below Clarence Cannon Dam in peril.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Mark Twain Lake in Missouri is cautioning citizens, especially those below the lake’s Clarence Cannon Dam, that precipitation during recent days has pushed elevations at the lake to above-record levels. As a result, discharges from the dam are currently at 12,000 cubic feet per second. Corps officials add that any additional rain, certainly over coming weeks, will require high discharges which could cause areas in the Salt River Valley below the dam to be flooded. Higher inflows would require commensurately higher discharges, flooding larger areas. The Corps is working closely with local emergency providers to ensure that everyone has accurate information about possible threats, including providing them with maps of areas that would be flooded at a series of increased discharges.

Source: <http://www.moberlymonitor.com/news/x379998059/Heavy-rains-put-residents-below-Clarence-Cannon-Dam-in-peril>

45. *July 28, Summit Daily News* – (Colorado) **Old Dillon Reservoir to be drained.** The earthen dam at the Old Dillon Reservoir is not safe, and the reservoir must be drained immediately, the Town of Dillon, Colorado, announced Monday. Increased pine-beetle infestation of the trees around the reservoir has contributed to significant deterioration of the aging dam’s condition, engineers from the Colorado Division of Water Resources discovered during their yearly inspection in early July. Dead trees standing on the steep side of the dam could topple, uproot, and threaten the integrity of the structure’s water-holding capacity, the Dillon public works director said. If the dam were to fail, uncontrolled drainage from the hill-top reservoir would most likely cause damage to both I-70 and commercial establishments in Silverthorne, the inspection report stated.

Source:

<http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20080728/NEWS/535132303/0/FRONTPAGE>

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